

Student Learning Outcomes

ELND-2009

Five College Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Written, Oral and Visual Communication:** *Communicate effectively in writing, orally and/or visually using traditional and/or modern information resources and supporting technology.*
- 2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning:** *Locate, identify, collect, and organize data in order to then analyze, interpret or evaluate it using mathematical skills and/or the scientific method.*
- 3. Critical Thinking:** *Differentiate between facts, influences, opinions, and assumptions to reach reasoned and supportable conclusions.*
- 4. Problem Solving:** *Recognize and identify the components of a problem or issue, look at it from multiple perspectives and investigate ways to resolve it.*
- 5. Information Literacy:** *Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources - print and/or electronic.*

1. Degrees and Certificates

1. What degrees and certificates does your discipline offer?

We offer an A. S. In Environmental Landscaping and three certificates: Landscape Construction and Design Specialty, Landscape Maintenance Specialty and Nursery Management. The certificates are outdated and I recommend that they are replaced as soon as possible.

2. Keeping in mind the five College Learning Outcomes above as well as what your discipline specifically requires of your graduating students, what should students be able to do when they have completed your discipline's requirements for each degree or certificate?

I am framing this response based on my recommendation that we replace the three certificates that we currently offer by two new certificates: **Sustainable farming** and **Sustainable Design**. Previous discussions with the Dean, Chairman and members of our Advisory board indicates that this is a viable alternative. I list below a proposed list of skills that students should master when they obtain those new certificates:

Sustainable farming :

- 1. Written, Oral and Visual Communication:** Students should be able to Communicate effectively in writing, orally and/or visually using traditional and/or modern information resources and supporting technology the various steps necessary for successful urban farming.
- 2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning:** Students should be able to locate, identify, collect, and organize data related to sustainable farming and analyze, interpret and evaluate them using mathematical skills to perform the various tasks necessary to establish an ecologically sound farm.
- 3. Critical Thinking:** Students should be able to differentiate between facts, influences, opinions, and assumptions to reach reasoned and supportable conclusions to successfully establish a urban farm: For example, student should be able to differentiate organic from non organic pesticides and how the selection of pesticides affect farm sustainability.
- 4. Problem Solving:** Students should be able to recognize and identify the components of a situation related to urban farming and look at it from multiple perspectives and

investigate ways to resolve it.

5. Information Literacy: Students should be able to formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources - print and/or electronic to successfully perform the various tasks necessary for a successful urban farm.

Sustainable design.

1. Written, Oral and Visual Communication: Students should be able to Communicate effectively in writing, orally and/or visually using traditional and/or modern information resources and supporting technology to design sustainable gardens, landscapes or urban farms.

2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning: Students should be able to locate, identify, collect, and organize data on sustainable design, analyze, interpret, and evaluate them it using mathematical skills to perform the various tasks necessary to design ecologically sound gardens, landscapes or urban farms.

3. Critical Thinking: Students should be able to differentiate between facts, influences, opinions, and assumptions to reach reasoned and supportable conclusions to successfully design sustainable gardens, landscapes or a urban farms.

4. Problem Solving: Students should be able to recognize and identify the components of a situation related to sustainable design look at it from multiple perspectives and investigate ways to resolve it.

5. Information Literacy: Students should be able to formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources - print and/or electronic to successfully perform the various tasks necessary for a successful sustainable design.

3. How do students in your program demonstrate that they meet each of the college-wide learning outcomes? What courses, activities, and/or projects are students required to complete that relate to each outcome?

i. Written, Oral and Visual Communication

Each Class Outline must include specific student learning outcomes related to the course content. Students, through various assignments and evaluations demonstrate in writing, orally and visually and that they have learned the specific Learning Outcomes for their classes.

ii. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

Each class outline must include specific student learning outcomes that include scientific and quantitative reasoning related to the course content. Students, through various assignments and evaluations demonstrate in writing, orally and visually and that they have learned the specific Learning Outcomes for their classes.

iii. Critical Thinking

Each Class Outline must include specific student learning outcomes related to the course content. Students, through various assignments and evaluations demonstrate that they have developed critical skills applied to the Learning Outcomes for their classes.

iv. Problem Solving

Each Class Outline must include specific student learning outcomes related to the course content. Students, through various assignments and evaluations demonstrate that they can solve problems specifically related to the Learning Outcomes for their classes.

v. Information Literacy

Each Class Outline must includes student learning outcomes related to the course content. Student must through various assignments and evaluations demonstrate that

they can formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources - print and/or electronic to address concepts related to the class content.

II. General Education:

1. Does your discipline offer any classes which count for general education requirements?

No

2. Which General Education courses in your discipline address the each of the five College Learning Outcomes? Please list courses for each of the following:

i. Written, Oral and Visual Communication

ii. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

iii. Critical Thinking

iv. Problem Solving

v. Information Literacy

III. Course Level Outcomes:

1. Do all of your Course Outlines of Record include Student Learning Outcomes? If not, are you revising them?

All my Course Outlines of Record include Student Learning Outcomes

2. What percentage of faculty members in your discipline include SLOs in their course syllabi?

I am not in a position to supervise other instructors because I do not believe that is my role. However, informally I raised the issue of student learning outcomes with other instructors when we share ideas. I believe most of the instructors in the Environmental Landscaping Department include SLO's in their syllabi.

3. Assessment:

i. How often do you assess these SLOs?

Every time I teach a class, I assess my SLO's. This occurs in average every two years.

3. Assessment:

ii. In the last two years every discipline developed SLOs specifically related to College Learning Outcome #3: Critical Thinking. Have you assessed this or any of the stated Student Learning Outcomes in your course outlines over the last year? If so, please summarize the results.

I have found that my students have addresses the College five learning outcomes. I have found out that the most difficult SLO to achieve is objective **2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning**: Locate, identify, collect, and organize data in order to then analyze, interpret or evaluate it using mathematical skills and/or the scientific method.

I believe that a major limitation for the students is that many basic lack math and English skills.

The other SLO that student have had problems completing is the College Learning Outcome : **4. Problem Solving**: Recognize and identify the components of a problem or issue, look at it from multiple perspectives and investigate ways to resolve it.

I believe that a limitation for the students have been that many of them have not have opportunities to be trained in a systematic approach to problem solving.

3. Assessment:

iii. What improvements have you made or do you plan to make in the future?

In all the classes I teach, assign a term project related to the specific class content. The project is designed to address all the **Five College Learning Outcomes**. I give students provide students written and oral instructions how to accomplish the project. The instructions require that to complete the Assignment, students conduct activities that address each of the five college learnign outcomes.

I plan to keep refining the term project that I assign for each class to ensure that each student has the opportunity to learn the material taught and to assess their comprehension of the material based on the college learning objectives.

3. Assessment:

iv. What do you plan to assess this year? Who will you assess? How will you assess?

I plan to further asses the students abilities to address the college learning objectives **2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning:** Locate, identify, collect, and organize data in order to then analyze, interpret or evaluate it using mathematical skills and/or the scientific method.

3. Critical Thinking: Differentiate between facts, influences, opinions, and assumptions to reach reasoned and supportable conclusions and

4. Problem Solving: Recognize and identify the components of a problem or issue, look at it from multiple perspectives and investigate ways to resolve it.

I will address that by developing specific Assignments that address those objectives and by tailoring classes to assist my students to achieve those objectives.